

409.11 Minimum Standards for Providers of Conservation Technical Assistance Associated with Conservation Planning which includes Pest Management.

(a) NRCS roles in pest management are:

(1) Evaluating environmental risks associated with probable pest management recommendations.

(2) Developing appropriate mitigation alternatives to minimize environmental risks.

(3) Assisting clients to adopt Integrated Pest Management (IPM) that helps protect natural resources.

(4) Assisting clients to develop and implement an acceptable pest management component of their overall conservation plan.

(b) The State Resource Conservationist (SRC) will ensure that all NRCS and partner personnel, volunteers, and Technical Service Providers (TSP's) who provide technical assistance for pest management are properly trained and meet applicable requirements for their positions as well as State licensing and/or certification requirements. The SRC will establish a process to provide continuing education to maintain employee and partner employee competency and State certification requirements. TSP's are required to meet the certification requirements established in Tech Reg, and that certification will be reviewed by the SRC at each renewal period.

(c) Pest Management certification is not required to develop or revise pest management components of conservation plans. However, all persons who approve pest management components of conservation plans must be certified specialists in pest management.

(g) Certified specialists who approve pest management components of conservation plans must have demonstrated the following knowledge and understanding:

(1) An understanding of the conservation planning process.

(2) An understanding of the production systems where pest management will be applied.

(3) An understanding of local, State, and Federal laws and regulations related to pest management.

(4) An understanding of natural resource concerns related to pest management activities.

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- (5) An awareness of the content of NRCS Tennessee pest management policy.
- (6) An understanding of the content and use of the NRCS FOTG.
- (7) Proficiency in applying the NRCS Tennessee Pest Management Standard (595).

(h) The following training and State certification are required for Pest Management Certification:

(1) Successful completion of “NRCS Conservation Planning Modules 1-9” or equivalent. Modules 1-5 are on line through NEDC, and modules 6-9 are field training provided by the State or Area office staff.

(2) Successful completion of the on-line “NRCS Introduction to Water Quality Course” or equivalent.

(3) Successful completion of the pest management track of the NRCS on-line portion of “Nutrient and Pest Management Considerations in Conservation Planning” course or equivalent.

(4) Review of work done with the Windows Pesticide Screening Tool (WINPST) by a certified Conservation Planner that has Pest Management Certification or higher level specialist.

(5) Review of a conservation plan prepared with Pest Management (Tennessee Field Office Technical Guide Code 595) conservation practice standard included in the plan.

(6) Successful completion and maintenance of the Tennessee Commercial Pesticide Applicator Certification, Category C10. New planners should visit the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Web Site at <http://www.state.tn.us/agriculture/> to determine the most current requirements for State certification. First-time planners will be required to take the core course and exam. Any fees charged NRCS Tennessee employees will be reimbursed.

(7) Successful maintenance of the Tennessee Commercial Pesticide Applicator Certification, Category 10, according to the CEU requirements established by the state. The SRC is responsible for identifying approved CEU opportunities for field personnel.

(8) The planner requesting certification will provide documentation of the above requirements for Pest Management Certification in writing to the SRC. This information will be maintained in a statewide database.

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